

CROSSROADS

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2019

CLIMBING HIGHER

Jamie Nofsinger, '95, working to change cultural perceptions

PITCH PERFECT

Junior **Will Bausinger** makes MSSU, MIAA history

PRIDE OF SOUTHERN

New Lion Co-op among campus, community service efforts



It was a fairly mild winter in Southwest Missouri, but we did manage to catch an all-too-brief blanket of snow covering the Oval in front of the George A. Spiva Library.



FROM THE EDITOR

Fun fact: Lions are a social animal, and are the only big cats who live together in groups – known as “prides.”

The majestic prides are unique in the way they hunt and defend their territory, and a lion’s roar can be heard from several miles away.

At Missouri Southern State University, we have an extended family that make up our pride – our current students, alumni, faculty and staff. Our pride is also notable for the ways in which we care for our own, as well as our surrounding community.

It’s a theme you’ll find woven throughout this new issue of Crossroads.

In our cover story, you’ll meet faculty members, alumni and students who have given their time and talents to improving the lives of others – from the creation of a new campus food pantry, to a scholarship fund for single parents and care packages for homeless individuals.

You can also catch up with Brandon Williams, who received this year’s Spirit of Service Award, meet a student who has spent two summers participating in cancer research projects, and a graduate working to educate families in China who are raising children with special needs.

There are enough examples of the ways in which our pride cares for those around them that we could easily fill a second issue. For instance:

- The Staff Senate’s annual **Angel Tree** program **provided presents for 43 families and 107 children** during the 2018 holiday season. Volunteers from around campus gathered to giftwrap the presents and get them ready to go under the tree.
- The members of **Omicron Delta Kappa** – the national leadership honor society chapter – **collected more than 140 coats** as well as other items **to distribute to the Joplin Boys and Girls Club and the Watered Gardens ministry in Joplin.**
- Members of **Phi Eta Sigma** – the freshman honor society – spent a Saturday **volunteering their time** to the **Ronald McDonald House of the Four States.**

And the list goes on and on.

While a lion’s roar can be heard for up to five miles away, you can hear our pride’s roar reverberate on campus, throughout our community and around the globe.

Have a story you think we might be interested in covering, a photo to share, or feedback on this issue? We want to hear from you. You can email us any time at crossroads@mssu.edu.

As always, thanks for reading! We’ll catch up with you again this summer.

Editor
Crossroad Magazine
Missouri Southern State University



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A NOTE FROM THE

PRESIDENT

DR. ALAN D. MARBLE, CLASS OF 1979

There's a narrative that has taken hold in some quarters that diminishes the importance and impact of higher education. It's what I call a "destructive challenge" that faces all of us working in this field.

There are many reasons such arguments have no merit – starting with the fact that the national average yearly salary for a college graduate is significantly higher than for someone with just a high-school diploma. But, the advantages go far beyond financial rewards.

A study by the Lumina Foundation found (in part):

The likelihood of being a regular smoker is 3.9 times lower. The incidence of obesity and heavy drinking are significantly lower. The likelihood of exercising, having a healthy diet, wearing seat belts and seeking preventative medical care are significantly higher.

Voting and political involvement are significantly higher. Participation in school, community, service, civic and religious organizations is substantially (1.9 times) higher. Leadership in these organizations is particularly (3.2 times) greater. Community involvement is significantly greater. For example, attendance at community meetings is 2.6 times greater. Neighborhood interactions and trust are significantly higher.

www.luminafoundation.org/files/resources/its-not-just-the-money.pdf

So, we are called on to push back against this destructive challenge, and we can do so by embracing a "constructive challenge" with vigor and determination. Thanks to the efforts of our faculty, staff, students, associated stakeholders and the Board of Governors, we've crafted a new mission statement for Missouri Southern that does just that.

"Missouri Southern State University will educate and graduate knowledgeable, responsible, successful global citizens."

It may bear the title of "mission statement," but in reality it's a charge – a responsibility we have to best serve the needs of our students – and one I expect all of us here at Missouri Southern to carry out to the very best of our collective abilities. I'm happy to say that, each and every day, I see the evidence that we are clearly taking the steps necessary to meet this responsibility.

When you look back at your time at Missouri Southern, I hope you recognize the true value of the education you received on this campus – as well as the friends made, relationships forged and memories created that will last a lifetime. I also hope you recognize and appreciate the elements of your education and development here that helped you grow into the "knowledgeable, responsible, successful global citizen" you are today.

We are extraordinarily proud of our Lion Family and so grateful to each of you for continuing to spread the good word about Missouri Southern ... and the tremendous value of a college education.

Alan D. Marble

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Pictured left to right: Julie Smith, Brett Burr, Carrie Burgi, J.E. Cruse, Deron Burr, John Klute, Amy Gannaway, Crystal Franklin, Not Pictured: Savannah Musselman.

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VOICES OF SOUTHERN

DR. NATALIE C. GRECU
Assistant Professor
Department of Communication

“What is a communication degree, and what can you do with it?”

I recall my father asking me this very question when I was an undergraduate in 2001. I am currently in my fourth year here at Missouri Southern State as an assistant professor in the Department of Communication, and many questions about what you can do in the field of communication still remain!

While our department does teach the oral communication course as a core requirement, communication is more than learning principles in public speaking and oral presentations. One area of focus in our communication department is public relations. Misunderstandings about public relations often include a perception that the field is concerned with “spin” and even deception, but this is contrary to the foundational principles of PR.

For example, my research focus is in public relations and strategic communication, which often involves multi-stakeholder engagement around contentious issues. When faced with a heated issue, dialogic communication and PR strategies emphasize the need to understand the varying perspectives of those involved prior to coming to conclusions concerning the particular issue.

A relationship-centered dialogic approach to communication also stresses the need for a supportive climate, concern for one another, reciprocity, equality and a mutually beneficial relationship for those

involved. A dialogical approach aids in understanding the key people or groups that impact an organization, both internal and external to the organization. These principles of stakeholder relations go beyond a public relations campaign strategy and can be applied in everyday problem solving and critical thinking.

I have utilized this approach to inform our curriculum in courses such as the communication course for the Yours to Lose pre-med students here at MSSU. This course weaves together nonverbal, strategic, health and oral communication concepts to provide students with a better understanding of how to create better dialogue with patients in their future medical careers.

The communication field provides an array of exciting career opportunities for our students. With my communication bachelor’s degree, I went on to work in media advertising sales, new business development at an advertising agency, the nonprofit sector, and marketing before returning to graduate school to earn a master’s in organizational communication and a Ph.D. in public relations/strategic communication.

Apart from the job titles, in the field of communication, students learn creative strategies and tactics to manage complex issues that are not easily solved. Difficult issues should begin with conversations that model mutual respect, understanding and a goal of relationship-building, before the problem “spins” out of control!



RIBBON CUTTING, DEDICATION HELD FOR NIXON HALL

“Institutions
such as this,
and buildings
such as this
are what
the future is
all about.”

It was standing-room only on the first floor of the new Jeremiah “Jay” Nixon Hall as the former Missouri governor praised Missouri Southern’s “rich past, great students and committed educators” and helped cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Local legislators, university administration, faculty and members of the community were on hand for the Jan. 31 event, celebrating the completion of the new building which opened in time for the start of the spring semester.

“We now have the greatest possible space for teaching and learning,” said Dr. Kerry Johnson, head of the Mathematics Department.

The \$8.1 million, 20,000-square-foot building features classrooms designed for collaboration and innovative learning, a computer lab, faculty offices and mathematically-themed design elements. Faculty members in the department were consulted on the design of the building.

“What you notice when you enter the building is how modern, bright and open it is,” said Johnson. “This was done on purpose to relieve some of the stress that many students feel toward mathematics.”

Marble stressed the importance the latest addition to campus will hold for students studying in the

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) areas.

“No matter what career path these students take, they’ll need a firm grounding in math,” he said.

Marble cited Nixon’s efforts – along with former Sen. Ron Richard and the local legislative delegation – in creating a bipartisan effort that led to much-needed renovations to Reynolds Hall (which is connected by a skywalk to Nixon Hall) and also securing funding for the new building. He also cited Nixon’s frequent presence in Joplin following the 2011 tornado.

“If there ever was a place you could call your second home, it’s Joplin,” said Marble.

“The beauty of math is that it’s so completely straightforward. You’re presented with a problem and you solved it. And that’s precisely the way Gov. Nixon operated during his time as governor.”

Nixon praised the project as yet another way the university is “charting a course for the future.”

“Institutions such as this, and buildings such as this are what the future is all about,” he said. “It’s about the long-term future.”



“I appreciate the commitment of this region to higher education, and the commitment to making this place better. Not just for you, maybe not even your kids, but for your grandkids and people you don’t even know.”

ANNUAL MLK EVENT ABOUT PROTECTING ‘THE DREAM’

More than a half century after Martin Luther King Jr.’s death, the slain civil rights leader’s call to action – addressing “the fierce urgency of now” – felt as important as ever.

Nearly 200 people gathered on Jan. 21 for the 19th annual MLK breakfast in Connor Ballroom.

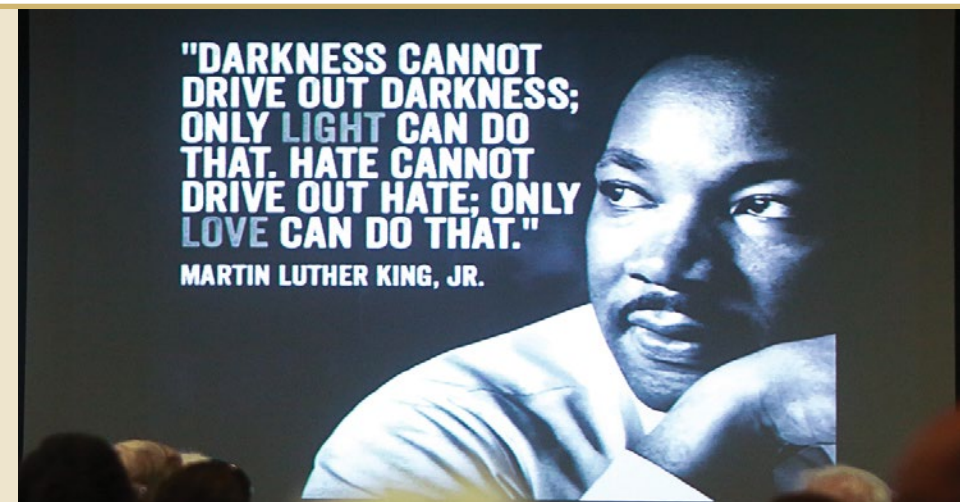
The keynote speaker for the event was Lyle Foster, assistant professor of sociology at Missouri State University. In 2015, he established the Tough Talks initiative, sparking conversations about diversity and inclusion issues across campus.

He spoke at MSSU about the importance of protecting King’s dream.

“It’s going to take more than watching Netflix,” Foster said. “It’s going to take more than a tweet. We need to envision (his) dream in contemporary times ... and see ‘all God’s children’ in a broader context than we ever have before.

“I hope our being here this morning is evidence we want to protect the dream.”

The annual event was established by the late Dr. Al Cade, the former dean of the School of Education who passed away in 2015. During the breakfast, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee announced the



recipients of the Dr. Al Cade Beacon of Hope Service Awards, which honor students for their volunteer service.

This year’s recipient was senior international business major Joe Blank. His service efforts included raising \$4,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House and supporting a number of other community and student projects.

Also recognized was the Kappa Alpha Order’s Delta-Pi chapter. The group’s 26 members compiled more than 3,300 service hours in the Joplin area.

Following the breakfast, those attending were invited to participate in the annual Day of Service. Participants were able to volunteer for a few hours at Spring River Christian Village, the Salvation Army and the university’s new Lion Co-op food pantry.



NEW HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP CENTER TO MEET NEEDS OF THE BUSINESS SIDE OF MEDICINE

Emphasizing the importance of improving and transforming healthcare at both the regional and national levels, officials at Missouri Southern State University announced the establishment of the Gipson Center for Healthcare Leadership during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 15.

Located in the Julio S. León Health Sciences Building, the center will help meet the growing demand for graduates with the education and skills to enter into healthcare business, management and leadership roles.

The “backbone” of the center will be a new degree program – the Bachelor’s of Science in Healthcare Administration. The center will be focused on more than just undergraduate education, however.

“We’ll also provide certificate programs for people who are already in the workforce who wish to broaden their knowledge and skill set,” said Dr. Richard Schooler, dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Plans for the center also include hosting a health service fair for high-school and middle-school students, as well as an annual healthcare leadership symposium.

In making the announcement, university officials recognized the support of Bill and Tracy Gipson, who made a \$1 million gift to help launch the center.

“This proposal was a home run for us,” says Bill Gipson. “There’s no other program like it in the region. We fell in love with the idea and are proud to be a part of it.”

The initiative was also supported by a six-figure gift from Schooler and his wife, Cheryl.

Melinda Brown was recently announced as director of the center. Work will begin soon to transform space in the Health Sciences Building into classrooms, faculty and staff offices, a conference room, and a student lounge and resource center.



NODLER HONORED AS RECIPIENT OF THE WEBSTER MEDALLION

Former State Sen. Gary Nodler was honored with the Richard M. Webster Medallion during a special presentation on Nov. 14 in the North End Zone Facility.

Established by Missouri Southern in 2015, the award is presented annually to an elected official who has made significant contributions to the public good and demonstrated political leadership at the local, state or national level with the spirit of the late Richard M. Webster.

Nodler – who earned his bachelor’s degree from Missouri Southern in 1972 – served in the Missouri Senate from 2003-11, and was a member of the education and appropriations committees. Among the legislation he sponsored during his tenure was 2003’s Senate Bill 55, which renamed Missouri Southern State College as Missouri Southern State University. That same year, he was recognized by the university as the recipient of the Outstanding Alum Award.

In 2007, he sponsored a bill that generated funding for construction at state universities, including the Julio S. León Health Sciences Building, and was instrumental in securing funding for the construction of the North End Zone Facility. He was recently appointed by Gov. Mike Parson to serve on the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR STATE LEADERSHIP FORUM

Four students from Missouri Southern were selected to represent Missouri Southern during the 2019 Governor’s Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values.

The 32nd annual event – which was held Jan. 9-11 in Jefferson City – was focused on servant leadership and character development. Participants heard from Missouri Gov. Mike Parson and Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe as well as a variety of other state and national speakers.

Only 80 students from Missouri were selected to attend. Representing Missouri Southern were Jacob Layne, senior political science major; Sarah Schultz, junior management major; Joseph Blank, senior international business major; and Marina Rojas, senior criminal justice major.

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Pride & PURPOSE

Second annual event
recognizes outstanding contributions
to Missouri Southern



BRANDON WILLIAMS: SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

For Brandon Williams, the idea of service is not something to be taken lightly.

It's a responsibility ... one that is deeply ingrained within the Baltimore Ravens defensive tackle and former Missouri Southern student athlete.

Check out the Ravens media guide and you'll find a full page devoted to the impact he's had on the community. His endeavors have certainly been noticed and appreciated. Last August, he was awarded the 2018 Tim Wheatley Award for Community Service; in January he was named the recipient of Missouri Southern's 2019 Spirit of Service Award.

"It's awesome to be recognized, but I don't do it for the awards," said Williams. "I feel as if so much was done for me and given to me when I was a kid and didn't have what I needed.

"It's an honor to give back to the community, wherever I am."

Williams, who was named to this year's NFL Pro Bowl, serves as an official spokesman and ambassador for the Maryland Food Bank. It's a cause near and dear to Williams, who can remember a time when he would open the refrigerator or kitchen cabinets and find nothing to eat.

"A lot of it is raising awareness that there is hunger in this community ... people who are going without," he said.

The non-profit supplies food to local pantries, shelters and other organizations, but their mission includes outreach programs that help fight hunger in other ways, such as teaching the importance of good nutrition.

"They also offer a class that teaches parents to cook with what they have," said Williams. "People can learn how to be a chef in their own home."

Since 2016, he has been involved with the Westport Boys and Girls Club. He has hosted a number of special events such as Thanksgiving dinners and school supply giveaways, as well as an initiative that focuses on academics.

“The kids have to read for so many hours and write a report, they have to have good attendance and report cards with a GPA above 3.0,” he said. “They learn that if they put the hard work in, good things can come. The world is your oyster if you work hard and do what you’re supposed to do.”

Other community efforts Williams has supported include volunteer work for BARCS Animal Shelter, helping raise funds for a new air and heating system for a local high school, a Secret Santa program and more.

Though he emphasizes that giving back to his community is a reward in and of itself, it is special to have been recognized by his alma mater.

“It shows that Missouri Southern cares about the present and the past,” Williams said. “You can leave the university, but you’re not forgotten. I have a lot of love for them, and still have friends there.”



GLENN WILSON: LION-HEARTED AWARD

Glenn Wilson, a 1955 graduate of Joplin Junior College, is the recipient of the 2019 Lion-Hearted Award.

The award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to Missouri Southern through service, financial support or other efforts.

Wilson is one of the longest-serving volunteer board members at Missouri Southern. He served two separate terms on the university’s Board of Governors, with his first term lasting from 1978-83. He was appointed again in 1994 to fill an unexpired term and became board president in 1996. He was appointed to another full term from 1997-2003.

Wilson also served on the Missouri Southern Foundation’s board of directors from 1978-2014. He was the board’s vice president in 1978, president from 1984-85, and treasurer from 1996-2014.

He has been a decades-long member of the Lionbacker Booster Club and is a member of the Lantern Society at the President’s Society level.

The projects he has supported over the years include Warren Turner Field, the Corn Family Scholarship, the Pat Lipira Softball Complex and the International Piano Competition.

CATCHING UP WITH OUR ALUMNI



The Robert W. Plaster School of Business played host for the most recent MOSO Monday event.

Last fall, business alums and friends of the university had the chance to mingle, check out the newly renovated Cornell Auditorium, visit the Block Interpersonal Development Room and learn how students will benefit from the W. Robert Corley Endowed Professorship in Marketing.



The Office of Alumni & Constituent Engagement traveled to Jefferson City and Columbia in November and had a great time catching up with Lions in and around our state capitol.

COMING UP FOR OUR ALUMNI

Upcoming events include on-campus alumni events for the Schools of Arts & Sciences, Education and Health Sciences as well as out-of-town events in Kansas City, Northwest Arkansas and Dallas!

Be sure to update your contact information to receive invitations to these and other alumni events: www.mssu.edu/alumni.



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Action 12 News

ANDY SEARCY

2001 Graduate of Missouri Southern State University

GIVING BACK

PHILANTHROPY, SERVICE A MAJOR PART OF GREEK LIFE

Missouri Southern is home to two fraternities and two sororities – the Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Zeta Tau Alpha. Philanthropy and service are at the heart of Greek life at Missouri Southern.



KAPPA ALPHA CHAPTER RECEIVES SEVEN AWARDS

For the third straight year, the Delta Pi Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order at Missouri Southern State University was recognized with the Samuel Zenas Ammen Award.

The award is given to the top 10 percent among the 125 chapters and five provisionals. It was among several recognitions the Missouri Southern chapter received during the recent Province Council in Carbondale, Ill.

The chapter received Project Outreach Awards for the amount each member donated to charity (\$237 per man) and the average number of philanthropy hours (130, for a total of 3,380). The fraternity also brought home awards for Excellence in Chapter Finances, Excellence in Social Media Communication, Excellence in Fraternal Communication and Excellence in Campus and Community Communication.



(Left) Members of **ZETA TAU ALPHA** helped the Joplin Salvation Army prep turkeys to serve to families on Thanksgiving.



(Middle) Last fall, Hanna Osborne, president of the Greek Council, organized an **ALL-GREEK SERVICE MIXER**. Members gathered at Landreth Park to help keep the park beautiful by picking up trash, then enjoyed a cookout.



(Right) During the last week of November, members from **ALL FOUR OF THE CAMPUS GREEK ORGANIZATIONS** volunteered as bell ringers for the Salvation Army. As a whole, they raised nearly \$1,500.

'Oh, ^{the} Places You'll Go!'



NWOGU

LANGSTON

MARSHALL

Dr. Seuss' final book has become synonymous with life's journey – adventures to be had and new places to discover.

For the nearly 400 students awarded degrees during winter commencement, those journeys will take them “down the road between hither and yon,” to places both familiar and unexpected.

Below are just three stories of the many high fliers who will soar to high heights.

Culture shock – that's what **Chiomu Nwogu** says she remembers most about her freshman year at Missouri Southern.

Coming to Joplin from Abuja, Nigeria, at just 16 years old, she didn't know anyone and didn't take advantage of the opportunities available for international students to get involved in campus life.

Her second year? That's when things began to look up.

“I got involved with the international group, where they have host families for students and people who will take them out,” Nwogu says. “I realized I needed to get up and move ... that there were people who wanted to get to know this Nigerian girl who graduated at 16 and could speak English really well.”

During her time at Southern, she was a member of the Campus Activities Board, the Finance Club, the Honors Program and the Southern Ambassadors and Lion Ambassadors. One experience that was very meaningful was her time as president of the International Club.

Nwogu – who has also studied French – began teaching herself Korean in order to form a bond with other international students.

“I thought that if I learned their language, they would see there were people who were interested in them,” she says.

She has returned to Nigeria, where she will do a year-long stint in a youth corps program. After that, she plans to enroll in graduate school and become involved in the financial sector.

To those who follow in her footsteps at Missouri Southern, she has this hard-earned wisdom to share: Get involved.

“Don't be afraid,” she says. “You don't have to feel lonely. This can be the best experience of your life.”

George Langston is originally from the UK, growing up in a small town in the Worcestershire region of England.

“My mom's dad was in the Air Force,” he says. “He met my grandmother in the UK and moved back and forth quite a bit. In 2009, my mom started thinking of moving back to America since he still had a lot of family here. She got her citizenship and moved us to Altamont, Kan., and my stepdad and I got our citizenship. I graduated from high school there and then came to Missouri Southern.”

Like Nwogu, he says starting his freshman year was a bit nerve-racking since he didn't know anyone.

“But I bumped into a group of guys and we've been friends for the last three and a half years,” he says.

While he originally intended to major in health promotion and wellness, he found his calling in the social work program.

“I wanted to work with individuals who were in recovery, then I got into juvenile justice and helping kids out who are in those situations,” he says.

During his time at Southern, Langston completed an internship with the Jasper County court system, gaining experience in the drug court and juvenile offices.

Having dual citizenship and splitting his formative years between England and the Midwest has certainly broadened his perspective, says Langston. Now, after nearly a decade in the United States, he plans to continue his education in the other country he calls home.

He's returning to England, where he has a seasonal position with PGL – an outdoor youth education program. He has also applied for the master's of criminology program at the University of Plymouth.

“My far-fetched dream is to become a homicide detective,” he says. “But I want to go into criminology to work with kids or individuals who need help.”

Unlike Nwogu and Langston, **Makenzie Marshall's** journey began here. Having completed her degree, “settling down” has become something of a foreign concept.

Originally from Joplin, she missed the winter commencement ceremony as she was with her husband in Cardiff, Wales.

Marshall began her studies in English literature at Missouri Southern in 2013. During her time at MSSU, she spent a month studying Japanese at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan, and participated in the English Department's Literary Paris course.

“Going away gives you a new perspective,” says Marshall. “Living and traveling abroad teaches you humility and acceptance of other beliefs and mentalities. I've largely learned to be more open-minded and to get away from the idea that America is the center of the world.”

She met her husband and got engaged in 2016. She traveled to Wales to stay with him for several months, then he came to the U.S. to stay with her.

“Then we moved to Cardiff, which is his hometown, and through the EU we were able to move to Ireland,” she says.

She returned to Missouri to finish her degree, but then it was back to Cardiff ... at least for the short term.

They're both currently working to obtain dual citizenship in one another's home country. She plans to work with VIPKID, an online education program that pairs English majors with students from Asian countries who are learning to speak English.

“I don't really see us settling down anywhere,” says Marshall. While she has applied to several graduate schools in the U.S., she says she and her husband are already looking ahead to the future and where they'll live next. New Zealand is a possibility.

“We want to experience places and not be tied down,” she says. “We don't want to just visit somewhere ... we want to live there and understand it from a native perspective.”

CLIMBING HIGHER



Jamie Nofsinger, '95, building awareness in China about raising kids with special needs

To save money, Jamie Nofsinger and his friends didn't use sherpas.

"We carried all our own gear, so it took a long time ... carrying 70-pound loads up and down the mountain," he says.

It's an endurance activity, Nofsinger says of mountain climbing. You spend a great deal of time acclimatizing to the elevation, while planning to hit a small summit window and hoping for good weather conditions.

In the case of his climb up the Ama Dablam, in the Himalayas of Nepal, the weather didn't cooperate. They awoke at 2 a.m. to begin the final stage of their climb, but the dark and poor weather – they could hear the sound of falling rocks in the distance – made the final ascent too risky a proposition.

While the main peak at more than 22,300 feet eluded him, Nofsinger exceeded an even more important goal. The '95 graduate used crowdfunding to raise more than \$3,000 toward sponsoring a Special Olympics event in Kunming, located in the Yunnan Province of China.

It was a passion project for the Nofsinger family, who have launched a new online venture to assist parents in China who are raising children with disabilities.

FOSTERING INTERESTS

Nofsinger, an Oklahoma native who came to Missouri Southern on a track and field/cross country scholarship, graduated with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. He took a position at Tulsa's Chapman Institute, which specialized in areas such as DNA and genetic testing, and breast cancer research.

"I was one of the only Americans working in the lab," he says. "I worked with several Chinese people there and became interested in their language and culture."

In 1998, he moved to China to begin studying the language and embark on a new career. He spent nearly 10 years managing a Tibetan carpet factory, and later served as project manager for a Canadian country working on conservation projects on the Tibetan plateau.

"Wherever we live, we want to be involved in our community," says Nofsinger. "In 2012, the government opened the fostering program to foreigners living in the country. My wife and I went to the orphanage, and the director took us through to a room where there were children who needed foster parents."

It was on the way, though, that they met Kai.

"We walked through a room where there were children with disabilities," he says. "Kai was in a playpen and he threw a rubber squeaky toy. My wife picked it up and looked at him and he held out his hands. She picked him up and he hugged her."

At 2 ½ years old, Kai was non-verbal, couldn't walk or eat solid foods.



The director initially discouraged their interest in fostering him, saying that as Westerners, they would receive stares in public if seen with a disabled child.

The couple persisted and the director agreed to let them foster Kai. Within three months he was crawling and eating solid foods. In six months, he was walking.

"It was a testament to the love of a family and being involved in a child's life," says Nofsinger.

Today, Kai is still non-verbal but is still going through speech therapy and is learning to use an iPad program that converts pictures to speech. He's also now a permanent member of the Nofsinger family, who decided to adopt him.

SHARING INFORMATION

There are more than 80 million families in China raising a child with special needs, says Nofsinger. Due to cultural issues, many families choose to hide them from public view and not discuss the issue openly.

"There's not a lot of sharing of information, and what there isn't really practical," he says. "We got a lot of questions from people and started thinking about creating a website where we can provide accurate information, encourage resources and build an online community."

Launched in late 2018, bluepandakids.com is designed to provide just that.

The three pandas in their logo represent the Nofsingers' children, and blue is the color used for autism awareness initiatives. The site will offer advice from parents and professionals as well as information about resources available in China.

"We'll provide content from medical professionals and eventually move to a subscription basis," says Nofsinger.

Changing cultural perceptions surrounding disabilities is a tall order – bigger than Ama Dablam, even. But the Missouri Southern alum feels up to the challenge – moving forward one step at a time.

"There's a huge need for this here," he says.



PITCH PERFECT

Junior Will Bausinger throws first perfect game in MSSU, MIAA history

It was something Will Bausinger hadn't really let himself dwell on until he stepped onto the pitcher's mound for the sixth inning.

"That's when I looked up at the scoreboard," said Bausinger of the Lions' Feb. 13 game against Washburn University. "When I came off the mound, I had tried not to think about it between innings."

The "it" in question was the perfect game the junior kinesiology major pitched during the nightcap of the Lions' first day of the 2019 MIAA/GLVC Challenge at Warren Turner Field. Bausinger became the ninth Lion to throw a no-hitter in the program's history, and the first ever to throw a perfect game – the 25th in Division II history and the first in the MIAA.

The Lions took down Rockhurst University 13-3 earlier in the afternoon and were looking for their second win of the day.

"I was warming up and relaxing throughout the first game," said Bausinger. "I did the same stuff I always do ... stretched and threw about 25 pitches in the bullpen. Everything felt good."

Early in the game, his teammates were coming up and joking with him, but things began to quiet down considerably as the string of Washburn batters were sent back to the dugout without ever seeing first base.

"When I was in the bullpen, I just sat back and let my mind wander and not think about the game," he said.

"When a baseball player is having that kind of game, it's not

something that is talked about in the moment," said Lions Coach Bryce Darnell.

"It's one of the superstitions of baseball. You don't really talk about stuff like that when it's going on. You could tell by the energy in the dugout that our guys knew what was going on – but nobody talked about it and nobody said anything out loud."

"I thought he might have a chance after the seventh inning. Will still looked sharp and actually gained some momentum toward the end of the game."

By the ninth inning, Bausinger knew a perfect game was within reach, but tried to temper his expectations.

"I looked at the scoreboard again, smiled and said, 'Let's have some fun and see what happens,'" he said.

He threw another three successive strikeouts, his teammates pouring onto the field to congratulate him.

"From a coaching standpoint, it was a joy to watch," said Darnell. "It was great to see the team so excited for him, embracing him and celebrating after the game."

With a perfect game in the books, Bausinger said he's not going to let it change his approach to pitching. He will keep the same mindset that got him through nine innings that February evening.

"I'm just going to go out and do whatever I can to help the team win," he said. "Whatever happens, happens."

GRADUATE-LEVEL RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITIES

ABSTRACT THINKING

ENHANCE ASHNI DUDHIA'S
YOURS TO LOSE EXPERIENCE

A lot of my professors tell me, 'You need to relax,' but I tell them I can't."

Ashni Dudhia laughs, and her enthusiasm is contagious. A junior in Missouri Southern's Yours to Lose program, she's been passionate about pursuing a career in medicine since the fifth grade.

In high school, she participated in an externship studying pediatric cancer at the University of North Texas' Health Science Center and was included among the authors of an abstract published by the American Association for Cancer Research.

"I never in my life imagined myself as a 16-year-old doing cancer research, then publishing and presenting in front of 16,000 people from places like Harvard and Yale," she says. "I was in 11th grade."

It's a passion that has continued to blossom after joining the inaugural Yours to Lose class two years ago at Missouri Southern.

Last summer, she returned home to Texas for another externship study at UNT's Experimental Therapeutics Laboratory, this time looking at effective combination treatments involving anti-cancer small molecules and other compounds. She also shadowed a physician to obtain clinical experience.

The 19-year-old says it's very likely the findings from the most recent study will also be published. For now, however, she's looking forward to a study abroad trip to Italy in the summer – after which she will begin her final year in the YTL program before

continuing her studies at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences' Joplin campus.

"It's so much fun and I love the professors – they're like the best thing about the program," she says of her time so far at MSSU. "I challenge anyone in the country or the world to find professors like this."

Dudhia says having graduate-level research under her belt has definitely facilitated her time in the program.

"Things that trigger that memory come up constantly in class because I remember, 'Hey, I've done that!'" she says.

"Last semester I took a molecular biology class. It was lab-based, so we did a lot of electrophoresis. I did a lot of electrophoresis in the labs (at UNT) that really strengthened my skills here. Those gels are so delicate and so hard to pierce through. Since I had learned the skills and have a steady hand, I was able to do them and teach my teammates."

Challenges that seem difficult to overcome are often the most worthwhile, she says.

"When you approach the harder things in life – like cancer research, vaccines, and viruses with unknown cures and causes – it makes you use your brain differently and think more abstractly. That's when you learn the most."

Giving Spirits

We take pride in those members of the Lion family who believe in lending a helping hand – on campus and off. In the following pages, you'll meet a cross section of faculty, students and alumni who have found purpose in service to others.



CAN-DO ATTITUDE

Faculty members join forces to launch Lion Co-op

If you need proof of how fast a simple idea can become reality, look no further than the Lion Co-op.

Housed in the FEMA shelter, the campus food pantry opened in November – just a few short months after three faculty members began noticing a growing trend of hunger and its side effects.

Dr. Renee White, chair of the Social Work Department, said she partnered with Dr. Andrea Cullers, associate professor of kinesiology, and Dr. Megan Bever, assistant professor of history to answer an important question: “What can the MOSO family do to alleviate hunger?”

“From that question, the Lion Co-op was born,” she said.

The empty space set aside in the FEMA shelter was quickly transformed into an area with shelves fully stocked with food and personal items. It was a testament to a need that resonated with many people.

“We had a crowdfunding campaign that reached its goal of raising \$5,000 during the fall semester,” said Cullers. “MSSU faculty and staff also volunteered over winter break to keep the co-op open and we were able to serve more than 70 clients during that time.”

Since opening, the Lion Co-op has continued to receive donations from campus employees and organizations, as well as from off campus. Along with food, money and toiletry items, the facility also now has two freezers thanks to a Facebook campaign back in December by Missouri Southern alum Jon Tupper, '92.

“The outpouring of donations and volunteers is what has allowed the co-op to move from a vision to a reality,” said White. “I am always humbled by the goodness of people and I stand in awe of the compassion that is present in and around the MSSU community.”

Students have also played a vital role in the effort. In the Social Work Department, students researched the issue by looking at the hard decisions other college students were making when spending their limited resources. Others volunteered their time and money to get the food pantry off the ground.

Cullers said in addition to playing a role in combatting food insecurity on campus, the Lion Co-op will also serve an educational role.

“We have a group of art students who are looking at non-profit design, and the Communication Department has a practicum that



will look at PR and marketing materials,” she said. “We want to grow to where we have students doing internships for discipline-specific projects through the co-op.

“It’s a place that serves our community, but also a place to educate our students and for faculty research.”

The Lion Co-op is open from 2 to 4 p.m. Mondays, and from 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays. Volunteers are being recruited so that hours can be expanded.

By mid-January, more than 100 members of the campus community had received assistance. It’s a number that is expected to grow as more people become aware that help is available.

“We want to continue to raise awareness,” said Bever. “We know that residence hall students are aware of it. We’re now working to make sure Lion Cub Academy parents and non-traditional students are aware of it, too.”

SOMETHING TO ASPIRE TO **Scholarship created by alumni** **Bryan and Leticia Vowels** **helps single parents continue** **their education**

Raising a child alone comes with its share of obstacles – and single parents deciding to pursue a college degree may find it creates a new set of financial challenges.

Lending a hand to those in such a situation was the idea behind a scholarship program launched nearly 10 years ago by Missouri Southern alums Bryan ('92) and Leticia ('93) Vowels. Aspire – which stands for Assisting Single Parents in Realizing Education – is a program that provides scholarships to qualified, low-income single parents who are pursuing a college degree.

Based on a similar program they had learned of while living in Arkansas, the Vowels initially launched the scholarship through the local United Way before going independent in 2010.

“We did the research and found there is a higher number of single parents in poverty in Southwest Missouri compared to the state and national average,” says Bryan. “It seemed like a natural fit to bring it here.”

The scholarship is awarded based on an application and one-on-one interviews. The couple says they are looking for students who have the “fire in their belly” to improve their lives and the lives of their children by getting a college education.

Those receiving the scholarship must already have received a federal Pell Grant.

“We want their books and tuition to be covered,” says Bryan. “The Aspire scholarship is to help bridge the gap for expenses. They can use it for child care, utility bills, car repair ... anything that eases the burden for them to go back to school.”

For Vanessa Garcia, a Missouri Southern senior majoring in social work, the Aspire Scholarship has meant being prepared for the unexpected.

“When you live paycheck to paycheck, there’s no extra money,” says Garcia, who is raising three children while working and trying to get her degree. “The scholarship has helped me save money so if my car breaks down, I can take a taxi, or if I need extra money to pay the bills.”

Recipients receive \$1,000 and can re-apply every semester. A merit bonus is available to reward academic success, and funds



have recently been made available for those attending summer classes or seeking a master’s degree.

“After the scholarships we award this spring, Aspire will have awarded close to \$250,000 since 2010,” says Leticia.

The board members overseeing the program include several individuals with ties to Missouri Southern, including Dr. Beverly Block and Dr. Brian Nichols from the Plaster School of Business, former admissions transfer counselor Belinda Cotton and '91 graduate Will Roderique.

“They’re all good people with a passion for helping others and who realize the importance of education,” says Leticia.

Garcia, who has received the scholarship for the last three semesters, says she has been impressed with the scholarships’ founders, from her initial interview to the follow-ups to renew it.

“They are so encouraging,” she says. “They’re not people who just write a check. They remember my face and remember my story. I feel very comfortable talking with them.”

The program offers a fundraising dinner each year, allowing business partners and recipients to gather to hear success stories from the program. And academic success is definitely something the Aspire program recognizes and celebrates.

“Some of these students have had severe issues to deal with in their lives,” Bryan says. “But they learn that the community is in their corner. We believe in them and want them to do amazing things. To watch them blossom in confidence is one of the things we’re proudest of. They’re working hard. We’re just giving them a little help along the journey.”



'IT'S HUMBLING'

Sophomore Melanie Crider undertakes service project at Watered Gardens

Melanie Crider saw them almost every day as she drove along Range Line Road on her way to work. People standing near busy intersections, clutching cardboard signs in hopes of catching the attention of drivers as they passed by.

Messages varied: *Need money for food*, perhaps. Or: *Need money for gas. Anything will help.*

Something else stuck with her, said Crider. The sight, sad as it may be, was becoming a bit too familiar.

"It's something people have become so used to overlooking, they don't really pay attention anymore," she said.

A sophomore music performance major, Crider said it was an issue on her mind when she learned she would need to undertake a project benefiting the community as part of the Missouri Southern Honors Program.

She looked into local organizations that work with the homeless population and found Watered Gardens – a rescue mission in downtown Joplin.

"They're trying to make a difference by stopping the cycle (of homelessness), not just giving handouts," said Crider.

"When I first toured the shelter, I met a woman who had worked in their workshop to earn a new coat. She was so excited to get one in her favorite color, and said she hadn't had a winter coat like it in

years. It's humbling to see things we take for granted that are big milestones for them."

The idea of providing necessities for those in need became the focal point of Crider's project. She began raising funds to assemble kits that could be distributed to people in need – drawstring bags containing items such as socks, water, a flashlight and food.

A member of MSSU's marching band, Crider said she was able to draw a lot of support from her classmates.

"Dr. Rick Espinosa, our band director, helped me to get the word out about it, and I raised donations through Facebook."

In all, she raised enough funds to put together around 50 kits. On Monday nights, groups from Watered Gardens would distribute the kits to people living in homeless camps, and meet with others to remind them of services the shelter offers to help them get back on their feet.

"It really made me step outside of my comfort zone," Crider said of the experience. "It taught me a lot more empathy."

While her service-learning project is complete, she said she plans to keep supporting Watered Gardens' mission.

"Whenever you get really involved somewhere, you want to see what else you can do," she said. "I've met a lot of great people through the organization and I'd like to help with other projects they're doing."



AMBER MINTERT NAMED ART EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Amber Mintert, assistant professor of art, has been named Higher Education Art Educator of the Year by the Missouri Art Education Association (MAEA).

“It’s an honor to know that people I work with recognize how seriously I take it and how passionate I am for what I do,” said Mintert. “To receive this award from my peers is a little bit humbling.”

Mintert joined the Missouri Southern faculty five years ago. Prior to that, she taught art at the high-school level in Webb City. She serves as the district representative for MAEA.

While her duties at Missouri Southern focus on art education and running the department’s fiber studio, her passion for working with younger students is never far from her mind.

“Right now I’m doing work for the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art (in Bentonville, Ark.),” she said. “They have a museum education

program for fourth-graders, so I’ve been taking kids from Cecil Floyd Elementary in Joplin and Steadley Elementary in Carthage to visit the museum.”

The MAEA annually honors “those who have shown dedication to our beliefs to promote, preserve and perpetuate art education in the state of Missouri,” according to their web site.

After receiving word of her nomination, she submitted recommendation letters and her resume for consideration by the awards committee. She will be recognized during the association’s spring conference on April 13 in Kansas City. While she will be unable to attend, she will also be recognized during the National Art Education Association’s convention in March in Boston, Mass.

“It’s not why you do it, but it’s nice to be reminded that your work matters and nice to know that it’s appreciated,” she said.

CSI LAB UNDERGOES MAJOR RENOVATION

The doors to the renovated Crime Scene Investigation Lab on the first floor of the Mills Anderson Justice Center are painted with crime scene tape, criss-crossing back and forth.

The entrance is a gateway into a space that has been redesigned to create a more immersive, hands-on learning environment for students learning the practical skills needed to process a crime scene.

The \$50,000 project created a new classroom and a second four-room suite that can be staged as a crime scene, allowed for the installation of new cameras for instructors to monitor the process, created storage space and an area for podcasting equipment.

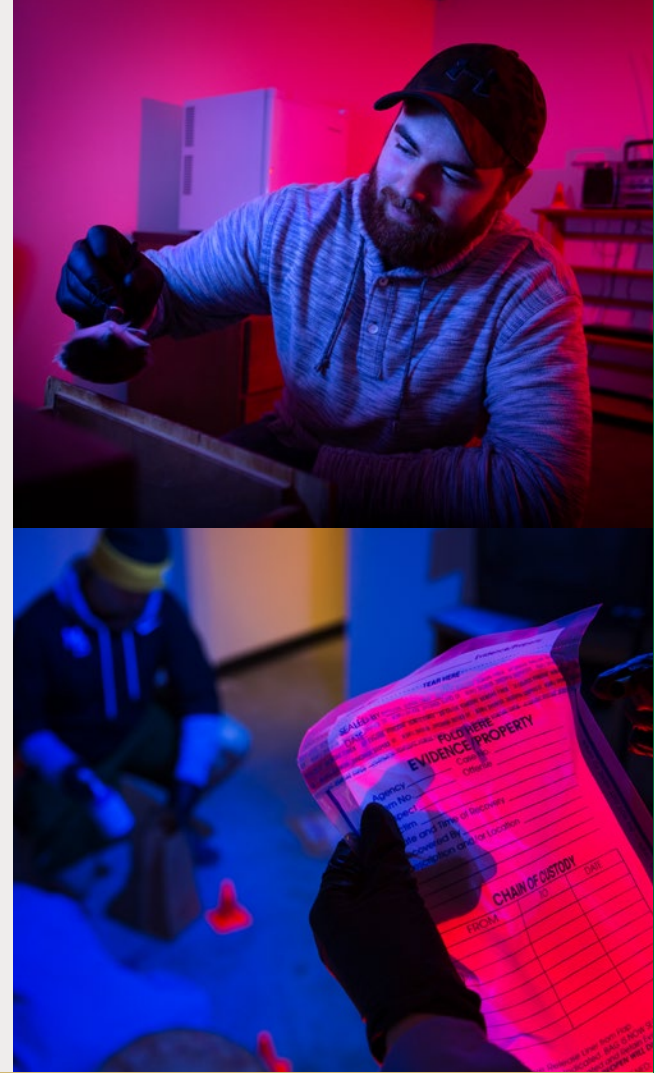
“The cameras mean I can remain in the classroom and observe the students’ work without having to be in there and bothering them while they do it,” said Dr. Tim Wilson, chair of the Criminal Justice Department. “I can watch and then make suggestions about what they could have done better.”

The scenario rooms were completed before the end of the fall semester, and the new classroom was finished in time for the start of Spring 2019.

“The students are pretty excited about it,” said Wilson. “It’s a lot better use of the space.”

And it’s not just Missouri Southern students who will benefit.

“One of the reasons I wanted to do this was because we don’t just use this area for academic purposes,” he said. “Students at the police academy can use it to learn how to clear a building, and we use it for the continuing education program. Current officers can come in and get certified on processing a crime scene.”



MOCK TRIAL MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT TOURNAMENT

Two members of Missouri Southern’s Mock Trial Team were recognized with awards during the Mid-Missouri Mock Trial Invitational at the University of Missouri in January.

Marina Rojas, a senior criminal justice administration major, received an Outstanding Attorney Award. Brent Olson, a freshman general business major, was recognized as both an Outstanding Attorney and Outstanding Witness.

This year’s case is a civil trial involving an animal trainer and a television studio which blames him

after a fatal chimpanzee attack on a late night talk show. Team members must be prepared to argue both sides of the case.

“This year, MSSU has one of the most talented Mock Trial teams since the inception of the program,” said Dr. Nicholas Nicoletti, the team’s coach. “We have a mixture of veteran and new members that have proven to be formidable competitors. This year, just as in years past, we have won an award at every tournament in which we have competed.”

HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS GATHER FOR ANNUAL MEDIA SHOWCASE

Held Dec. 6, the 22nd annual Southern Media Showcase drew nearly 400 regional high-school students, who submitted close to 500 print and video contest entries.

“It’s always a great opportunity to highlight the creative work done by area students, and for them to hear from media professionals,” said Judy Stiles, general manager of KGCS-TV.

Faculty, staff and students help organize and staff the event, which is sponsored by Missouri Southern’s Department of Communication.

In addition to the awards presentation, students heard from two representatives from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Luca Bond, communication manager, discussed how the MDC works with the media on a daily basis. Noppadol Paothong, a 2001 graduate of MSSU, shared his experiences as a nature photographer.



TIME FOR A CHANGE

BLOCK INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ROOM EMPHASIZES IMPORTANT 'SOFT SKILLS'

The colorful triptych along the back wall adds a welcome splash of color to the room – a tree adorned with colorful bulbs separated into three framed panels.

Along the walls are prints with lions, lanterns and quotes applicable to what students will learn during time spent in the room. The lighting is warm, the Wi-Fi has been upgraded, and the new tables, chairs and carpeting make one feel right at home. And home is what Room 318 of the Plaster School of Business has been for Dr. Beverly Block, a management professor who joined the Missouri Southern faculty in 1984.

"It's the room I've been in for most of my time here, and it hadn't changed," says Block. "It's my last year of phased retirement and I wanted to do something for Missouri Southern. I thought, 'Why not do it now and let me enjoy it for a year before my departure?'"

Her generous gift to the university led to the newly named Block Interpersonal Development Room. The design is meant to emphasize some of the important skills she hopes students will develop.

"I started thinking about the artwork and how we could portray some of the important things students need to know," she says. "Accounting and marketing, those are hard skills. But employers are saying soft skills will help students get jobs."

Those soft skills are represented by a lantern design that incorporates words such as "adaptability," "critical thinking," "creativity" and "organization."

"I wanted to be sure to include a lion, since it's our mascot, and the lantern as our academic symbol," says Block, adding that friends

helped with the printing and lettering. "I found some quotes that went along with what we're trying to say and used as much color as possible."

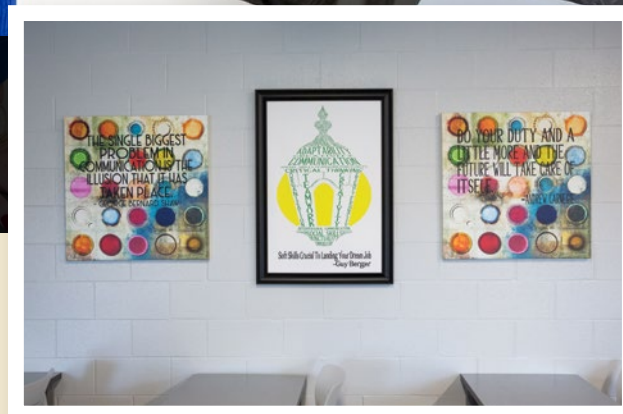
The room was showcased during the recent MOSO Monday event at the Plaster School of Business. The event, hosted by the Alumni Office, allowed alumni and other visitors to mingle and learn more about developments at the school.

"It's a state-of-the-art classroom and is designed to foster student learning and the development of the professional skills of our students," says Dr. Jeffrey Zimmerman, dean of the School of Business.

Those attending MOSO Monday also heard about the new Robert W. Corley Endowed Professorship in Marketing.

"There is nothing more important to the education of our students than the quality of the faculty we are able to recruit and retain," says Zimmerman. "The market for terminal qualified faculty is very competitive and, at times, it has been challenging to find and hire the right person for our business school."

"The Robert W. Corley Endowed Professorship in Marketing will give us the ability to recruit and retain the highly qualified and committed faculty that we need and that our students deserve."



TRIP TO HIGHLIGHT GERMAN ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

The Engineering Technology Department will offer its first study abroad trip May 20-29.

During the “Made in Germany” trip, students will learn about German engineering and cultural, historical and technological aspects of manufacturing. They’ll visit Munich, Stuttgart, Rüdeshheim, Heidelberg, Emden and Hamburg.

“We’re going to visit three of the biggest manufacturers,” said Claudia Wilson, assistant professor of industrial engineering technology. “We’ll visit Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and the Shipyard Meyer Werft, where they actually make the really big cruise ships.”

Wilson said students on the trip will learn how cultural, social and space requirements are shaping engineering solutions in Germany.

“What I mean by that is their cars are smaller, but engines are more powerful,” she said. “Why is that? Why does no one have a pickup over there? We’ll see how their manufacturing principles are applied on a large scale.”



MSSU TO HOST 2019 TSA CONFERENCE

More than 800 middle- and high-school students will have a chance to show off some high-tech skills when they gather at Missouri Southern in April.

It’s the result of an agreement between the university and Missouri’s Technology Student Association (TSA) that will bring the TSA State Conference to campus.

“We have been involved with TSA since 2013,” said Dr. Elke Howe, chair of Missouri Southern’s Engineering Technology Department. “We’ve hosted the regional conference on campus, and are very excited and honored to have the opportunity to host the state conference in 2019.”

MSSU and Missouri TSA officials signed the contract on Dec. 6. The state conference will be held April 14-16.

Students will take part in more than 60 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related competitions - including leadership, communication, bio, medical, programming and robotics and multimedia events.

The Technology Student Association is recognized as the Career and Technology Student Association exclusively dedicated to students interested in STEM fields. It offers students opportunities to participate in leadership activities that will prepare them for the high-tech, science or engineering workplace.

PROFESSOR’S RESEARCH PROJECTS LOOK AT POP CULTURE INFLUENCES

When people think of research projects, images of professors in white coats toiling away in labs may come to mind.

“People think of potions changing colors and things that are very tangible,” says Dr. Stephanie Schartel Dunn, assistant professor of marketing. “We don’t have that in the behavioral sciences, like business. But it’s still exciting.”

While her initial interest in research was in political communication, she soon found another path.

“I found that I was far more interested in the pop culture side of things,” she says. “So much of what we do and so much of our time is spent with media and entertainment sources. I was interested in the outcomes of that and how it shapes our behaviors.”

Dunn currently has several research projects in the works, from an upcoming article in Business Communication Quarterly to a paper on celebrity influence on millennials and a project on how election-week statements by celebrities such as Taylor Swift and Kanye West influenced perceptions.

Along with another researcher, she’s also editing a book on how narrative involvement is utilized in advertising and PR campaigns.

But it’s another research endeavor that is nearest and dearest to her heart.

Along with Assistant Dean Michelle Dawson and Dr. Beverly Block, she is collecting data on how students – both in person and online – use teamwork in the classroom, and their perceptions of it versus faculty perceptions.

“It’s bringing people together,” Dunn says of the interdepartmental effort. “Building a community of researchers is really important.”





'SERVICE IS A GREAT CHARACTER TRAIT' KELSEY STENGER, '12, STRESSES WELLNESS, SERVICE TO STUDENTS

Early on in her career as a physical education teacher, Kelsey Stenger realized the full scope of her role.

"I realized my job wasn't just to be a teacher," she says. "It was to be more of a mentor who can talk to girls about self-worth, confidence and help them with that."

The 2012 graduate says she supplements her physical fitness lessons at Carthage High School by talking about the importance of mental and emotional health.

"I work them pretty hard, but we'll take a day off every now and then to do something to enhance one of those other modes of wellness," says Stenger. "One day we did manicures, pedicures and facials. It sounds silly to talk about the importance of good hygiene to high-school students, but there are a lot of kids who are lacking a mentor or mother figure in their life."

She's also a firm believer in the importance of service to others, which she has implemented as advisor for the school's student council.

"We started a new program that has been really good so far," she says. "It's called Passion Projects. The kids get into groups and create their own community service project from scratch, and it's their job to see it through to the end."

"We had some really good things come from it. We had a Polar Express community Christmas event, and kids who made baskets to deliver to homeless people. It was really cool to see. I didn't have a hand in it. It was all them."

Stenger says she's always been a proponent of service to others.

"We live in a selfish world, and service is a really great character trait," she says. "It's something I want to build in my students. It's a contagious feeling."

"While I'm here, I hope I can spread it to as many of my students as I can, and that they'll continue to serve others and live positive lives."



PSYCHOLOGY OFFERS NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The Psychology Department is offering new certificate programs in clinical and developmental psychology.

“Many of our graduates work in the mental health field where clinical skills are essential to success,” said Dr. Holly Hackett, chair of the department. “In addition to offering field experience or internships, the certificate program allows them gain credentials by selecting from communication, psychology and sociology courses to build their clinical skills.”

The developmental psychology certificate program is similarly structured, she said.

“Students can take courses in psychology, kinesiology and sociology, and must complete an applied experience,” she said.

“Both of these programs emphasize the field experience.”



KINESIOLOGY STUDENTS TO EXPLORE NORDIC LIFESTYLE

Kinesiology students will have a chance to explore the Nordic lifestyle during a trip planned for May 21-31.

The participating students are taking a class this spring before taking a trip to learn more about the lifestyle choices that affect the wellness and health of the population. They’ll explore research findings and policy in areas such as food and nutrition, health care, lifetime activities and the work/life balance.

They will visit Copenhagen in Denmark and Oslo, the capital of Norway. Activities will include visiting local markets and restaurants, the University of Copenhagen and a local castle, as well as kayaking and skiing.

SENECA TEACHER RECEIVES AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

Judd Eidson never expected to hear his name called during last fall’s announcement of the Dr. Al Cade Educational Service Award.

“I don’t know I even belonged in that group of nominees ... people I have great, great respect for,” he said. “I was totally shocked (when it was announced).”

Named for the late dean of the School of Education, the award from the Southwest Center for Education Excellence is given to educators who go above and beyond “the job” to help each and every individual meet their full potential.

Eidson, who teaches government at Seneca High School, has a record of service to the Seneca R-7 School District that goes back decades – first as a football coach, then as the boy’s golf coach and later girl’s golf. He came to Missouri Southern’s teacher education program as a non-traditional student, graduating in 1998.

Eidson says he recently considered retiring, going so far as to turn in a resignation letter.

“But I drove home every night thinking I made a mistake,” he says. “I love what I do. I talked to our principal and rescinded my resignation. I just felt like I’m not ready yet.”

“One of the best teachers I had (at Missouri Southern) was Pat Lipira. The way she treated me as a non-traditional student ... I absolutely adored her. She was my hero. I still teach my classes in a way I think she would approve of.”





AMBULANCE SIMULATORS OFFER 'PROFOUND' LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

For paramedics and emergency medical technicians, patient assessments are the key to everything.

“We take a systematic approach to determine what the patient is dealing with,” said Ted Lee, associate professor of emergency medical services. “We’re constantly looking to see if what we’re trying to do is making a difference. And if the initial intervention isn’t working, we need to change what we’re doing and adapt to it.”

Practicing these life-saving skills around a classroom table is one thing. But it’s an entirely different matter when in the back of an ambulance.

A custom-built pair of ambulance simulators will allow Missouri Southern students to become familiar with the constraints and challenges they’ll face in the real world.

Located in Room 312 of the Julio S. León Health Sciences Building, the pair of adjoining simulators were built by a Texas company over 23 days last fall. Constructed in the center of the room, the simulators sport both the university colors and EMS logo.

Lee said the grant-funded simulators offer an amazing opportunity for students – especially in a larger class.

“When you have a large class, having just one makes it hard to cycle


everyone through,” said Lee. “You have a lot of people standing around or watching, but only a few doing something. With two, we can do a medical scenario on one side and a trauma scenario on the other, and engage much more of the class in that process.”

Each simulator has four cameras, with video feeds allowing instructors or other students to watch what’s happening in real time. Lee said a program the department plans to purchase will offer interviews with patients in a medical facility, allowing students to know what the scenario will be before getting into the ambulance simulator.

Partnering with other departments – such as nursing or respiratory therapy – will also allow students to practice moving their simulated patients to and from the back of the ambulance.

Lee said students at Missouri Southern participate in internships that include both “truck time” in real ambulances and clinical experiences with local hospitals or other healthcare providers. The new simulators will allow them a learning experience that will be “pretty profound.”

“Trying to realize spatially what they’re dealing with can be a pretty steep learning curve,” he said. “Getting familiarity with working with a patient in a classroom-controlled setting before going out into the field is significant.”



WOOD

WALKER

RADIOLOGY STUDENTS RECEIVE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Senior Lindsey Plazak Wood and freshman Jazzman Walker were recently announced as recipients of the Dr. Thomas L. Ward Memorial Scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to two radiology students each year. It was established by Dr. Carolyn Prater in memory of Ward, who passed away in 2015. He worked in the radiology department of the former St. John's Regional Medical Center, and developed a close relationship with the Radiology Department at Missouri Southern to help train students.

"The scholarship has been invaluable to deserving students," said Alan Schiska, director of the Radiologic Technology program. "(It helps) students who are struggling financially while trying to work their way through college, while keeping up with the challenging curriculum in radiology."

DENTAL STUDENTS CONNECT WITH REGIONAL COMMUNITY

Students in the Dental Hygiene Departments had the opportunity to participate in several recent community events.

"They provided DNA swabs and fingerprinting for children in the community during the Alliance for Southwest Missouri's 2018 Safe Kids Downtown Dash," said Kim Rogers, interim director of the department. "The Criminal Justice Department and the Caviness Foundation provided the funding for the kits used during the event."

Students also collected data and provided services to approximately 300 elementary school children through a preventative services program offered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

"Our program was also able to purchase a new panoramic imaging unit for the dental clinic," said Rogers. "We're currently in the process of having cameras installed for projecting demonstrations of patient images to enhance student learning. These improvements were made possible by the Caviness Foundation."



NEW DEGREE TO FOCUS ON BUSINESS SIDE OF HEALTHCARE

The backbone of the new Healthcare Leadership Center will be a new degree program – the Bachelor's of Science in Healthcare Administration.

"When people think of healthcare, they think of the clinical side," said Dr. Richard Schooler, Dean of Missouri Southern's School of Health Sciences. "But if you're going to be a successful healthcare organization, you also have to be a high performing business organization."

"This degree will give graduates a solid business foundation, and also insight into what healthcare is all about ... what makes it tick. It will prepare our students for entry-level business and management positions in the healthcare industry. They'll have the foundation needed to advance into leadership roles."

The curriculum for the 120-credit hour degree program will focus on areas specific to the health sciences, as well as business, management and communication. Students' last semester will also include an internship within their field of interest.

"What's unique about this program is that it will be a mix of academia and real-life perspective," Schooler said.

Several area healthcare business professionals have already been tapped to serve as instructors.

The new degree program will launch with Missouri Southern's Fall 2019 catalog.



'CREATING A WINNING HABIT'

Jeff Sims was introduced as the 13th head coach in the history of Missouri Southern football on Nov. 11.

The 46-year old St. Louis native has a rich coaching pedigree. He led Garden City Community College to the 2016 NJCAA National Championship, finished runner-up in 2018 and also finished runner-up in 2009 while at the helm of the Fort Scott Community College program.

He has a 77-32 record as a junior college head coach, as well as plenty of Division I experience after stints as an assistant at Indiana University and Florida Atlantic University.

He recently sat down to talk about his philosophy, his expectations and what he won't accept.



Q: What's the most exciting thing about being at Missouri Southern?

Sims: Personally, it's being home. When I graduated high school I went away to college, and (at the time) didn't know I was leaving Missouri for the rest of my life, so it's great to see St. Louis Cardinals baseball and great to be somewhere where people talk the same talk.

Professionally, it's the next day. What I mean is that every day I come here I uncover another reason why we should be successful. Our football program now is like us being at the Indianapolis 500. We have the fastest car, but the tires and steering wheel aren't on it yet and we don't have the driver in the driver's seat. We just haven't put the pieces together. When we do, this thing's going to be the fastest car going. I can see that because I know what a fast car looks like.

Q: How do you and your staff change the culture here?

Sims: We will not accept losing. And I don't think people see the opportunity they have here. I've been fortunate. I've coached three undefeated teams at three colleges, but all three of those places didn't see the opportunity that they had either.

Every single day, I wake up and I'm thinking about how to win football games. Period. I would be horrible if I went over to the English Department, for example, because I don't think about English. I think about what it takes to win games. And that's so much bigger than what's on game day. It's how to graduate them (the players), how do we work in the community – so that it all builds to a crescendo that when we walk out there on Saturday, we're the best football team in the country.

Q: You mentioned community. Why is that important to you and your players?

Sims: We call it Service Saturdays. Whether we're getting trash bags and cleaning up campus or other places, going to retirement homes and spending time with residents, or reading to people – our goal is to do one every Saturday this semester.

The reason is that we have to start acting like winners before we can win. When people see us play on Saturdays, that's the result of a lot of other days.

Q: You call it a '350 mentality.' What is that exactly?

Sims: To win a national championship you have to win 15 games. If we win 350 days of the year, the other 15 take care of themselves. If we only try to win on Saturdays, then we aren't successful.

Q: Why do you believe winning is a habit?

Sims: If you're going to class and you're winning in the classroom, you're used to it. Our players go to class more than they go to practice or games. If they create the habit of competing in class, they create the habit of competing on the practice field.

Most winners hate losing – it's not that they just like winning – and I don't know that we hate losing here right now as a football program.

That's changing because we're creating a winning habit.



HALLIE BLACKNEY NAMED HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

Hallie Blackney was recently named the ninth head softball coach in the history of the program at Missouri Southern. She began last fall as an assistant coach before being elevated to interim head coach.

"When I first came to MSSU, I knew it was a special place," says Blackney. "The student-athletes I get to work with daily and the relationships I have built across campus have only strengthened that feeling."

Blackney came to Southern after two seasons with the Div. 1 George Washington University. She helped guide that program to a record 33 wins and a return to the A-10 championship in 2018. She's a graduate of Truman State University, where she was an All-MIAA utility player.

FRESHMAN KIMUTAI PLACES FOURTH AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Freshman Gideon Kimutai placed fourth at the 2018 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships, hosted by Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

The Missouri Southern men's cross country program finished 11th as a team during the event.

Kimutai completed the muddy 10k course with a time of 32:11:7, placing fourth and earning All-American honors. He joins former Lion Vincent Kiprop as a Southern freshman finishing in the top 5 of the National Championship.

CLARK BECOMES ALL-TIME 3-POINT LEADER

During the Lions 78-66 win over Fort Hays State on Feb. 9, junior Elyjah Clark became Missouri Southern's all-time 3-point leader.

The game saw him score his 267th 3-point shot, passing Austin Wright for the all-time lead. He also moved his career point total to 1,300 — just four away from the 11th place all-time spot.

"He shoots a lot of them, but for the clip that he shoots them at for his career – to be in the 40th percentile in two and a half years – is pretty remarkable," says Coach Jeff Boschee. "It takes a special talent and obviously a lot of work to get (that record) accomplished."

Clark acknowledges the amount of work it has taken to develop his 3-point game.

"It's been a long time and a lot of hard work," says Clark. "There were a lot of shots that I put up, so it feels good to know my name will be forever in the record book at Missouri Southern."

CLASS NOTES

Let us know what's going on in your life! Email us at alumni@mssu.edu



1970s

Stephen Buckingham, '72, is the CEO of South Joplin Land & Development Co. Inc. in Rogers, Ark.

Gary Nodler, '72, was appointed to the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson.

Robert E. George, '73, '79, is an associate Division II judge for the State of Missouri in Lawrence County.

Jean (Isle) Potter, '73, does professional development/digital services for the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Mary (Davidson) Heseman, '75, is the assistant director of adult education for the Missouri Department of Education in Jefferson City, Mo.

Gayle Crouch, '76, is the executive director, company systems for 7-Eleven Stores in Oklahoma City.

Terry Pitts, '77, is a controller for Jimmy Michel Motors Inc. in Aurora, Mo.

Deborah Schoen, '76, is the city clerk for the village of Freistatt, Mo.

Rick Ham, '78, is the owner of 4 State Chimney LLC in Neosho, Mo..

Mark Elliff, '79, was appointed to the Missouri Housing Development Commission by Gov. Mike Parson.

1980s

Robin Grosse, '81, is the payroll/benefits/finance coordinator for the Carl Junction R-1 School District in Carl Junction, Mo.

Regina Shank, '81, is the president of Global Transformation International in Carthage, Mo.

Gary Testerman, '82, is a staff accountant for CNC Machine Products Inc. in Joplin.

Michael Kelly, '83, is the CEO of Pearson-Kelly Technology in Springfield, Mo.

Sharon Lloyd, '83, is the grants administrator for Washington County, Ark.

Elizabeth Alms, '84, is a physical education teacher for Neosho R5 School District in Neosho, Mo.

Glen Baker, '84, is a national sales manager for Aspeq Heating Group in St. Louis, Mo.

Wayne Ball, '84, is the director of technology for Excelsior Springs School District in Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Sheila (Schwartz) Parsons, '84, is the director of corporate finance for Stan Clark Companies Inc. (the corporate headquarters of Eskimo Joe's) in Stillwater, Okla.

Kevin Sanderlin, '85, is the vice president of North American Sales for Redwood Ventures in Bentonville, Ark.

Joseph Crayon, '86, has been with the Kansas City Police Department for 31 years. He currently serves as captain/manager of fleet operations.

David Griffith, '86, was elected as state representative for Missouri House District 60.

Cheryl "Denise" (Johnson) Kelly, '87, is retired, but works as a literacy consultant and volunteer.

Steve Miles, '87, is a location pastor for Jubilee Church in Washington, Mo.

Dr. Jon Scott Turner, '88, is an assistant professor of Counseling, Leadership and Special Education at Missouri State University. His research agenda focuses on rural schools and the challenges they face.

Carrie (Holyfield) Ball, '89, is a pharmacist for Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Mo.

Andrea (Partain) Buening, '89, is the special projects coordinator for The Independent Living Center in Joplin.

Bonnie Ledford, '89, is the practice transformation coordinator for UCHHealth Medical Group in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Roger Wolf, '89, is a project manager, senior manager for Jack Henry & Associates in Monett, Mo.

1990s

Mike Brower, '90, is an AVP-Branch Manager for Community Bank & Trust in Carl Junction, Mo.

Shawn Hull, '90, is an associate dean of institutional effectiveness for William Wood University in Fulton, Mo.

Margaret Macormic, '90, is a teacher at Pleasant Lea Middle School in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Patrick Cahalan, '91, is the director of risk and quality improvement at Ozark Center in Joplin.

Dawn (Ehrenberg) Eden, '91, is a dietary aide for Mercy Joplin.

Tracy Eden, '91, '93, is a teacher and department head for Webb City Schools in Webb City, Mo.

Kevin Cooper, '91, is the assistant superintendent for Webb City Schools in Webb City, Mo.

Suzanne (Jackson) Hull, '91, is the coordinator of educator preparation for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Jefferson City, Mo.

Derek Martin, '91, is a managing director at Ducommun Inc. in Joplin. He and his wife, Tracy, also own Webwood Assisted Living in Neosho.

Karen Taylor, '91, is first assistant public defender for the Colorado State Defender's Office in Denver, Colo.

Philip Yount '91, is sales manager for AT&T in Springfield, Mo.

Deron Burr, '92, is the president of the People's Bank of Seneca in Seneca, Mo.

Christina (Zinchuck) Hardy, '92, is the director of marketing for College Heights Christian School in Joplin.

Steven Ray, '92, '95, is a senior systems engineer for TAMKO Building Products Inc. in Joplin.

Steven Smith, '92, is the general manager of PIC Plastics Inc. in Carthage, Mo.

Amy (Carey) Gannaway, '93, is a mortgage lender/AVP for People's Bank of Seneca.

Rolanda Gladen, '93, is a teacher for St. Louis Public Schools.

Brian McMullen, '93, works for Lockheed Martin in Littleton, Colo.

Karen (Baiamonte) Warden, '93, is a special education teacher for the Carl Junction R-1 School District in Carl Junction, Mo.

Andrew Jordan, '94, is the assistant fire chief, the fire inspector and a commercial fire code enforcement official for the City of Lebanon, Mo. He also works as the operations chief at the Laclede Office of Emergency Management.

Dena (Vann) Matteson, '94, is the chief of interpretation, planning and partnerships for the National Park Service – Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Van Buren, Mo.

Jennifer Kuncel, '95, is the manager, business analysis for Tolleson Wealth Management in Dallas, Texas.

Tamara (Adkison) Schaller, '95, is the human resources coordinator for Jasper Products LLC in Joplin.

Craig Vonder Haar, '95, in the communications manager for the school district of Washington, Mo.

Kimberly (Stout) Fullerton, '96, is the CFO of Beimdiek Insurance in Carthage, Mo.

Chris Gold, '96, is superintendent at Marionville School District in Marionville, Mo.

Elizabeth (Archer) Gold, '96, owns 3fourteen designs and Legacy Properties in Republic, Mo.

Holley Goodnight, '96, earned her doctorate in instructional leadership-higher education administration from Lindenwood University.

Casey Greenway, '96, is a senior managing consultant for BKD, LLP in Springfield, Mo.

Cameo Harrington, '96, is a senior account executive for Stealth Creative in Joplin.

Jamie Nelson, '96, is an intelligence analyst for Overland Park Police Department in Overland Park, Kan.

Juli DeNisco, '97, '99, is the AEL director at Crowder College in Neosho, Mo.

Jeremy Shadwick, '97, recently completed his doctorate in Industrial Organizational Psychology.

Brandy Whyman, '97, is the financial services specialist for FCS Financial in Joplin, Mo.

J.E. Cruse, '98, is a commercial lender/VP for People's Bank of Seneca.

Crystal (Yokley) Franklin, '98, is a commercial loan agent with People's Bank of Seneca.

Laura Hazelwood, '98, is the city clerk/court administrator for the City of Verona, Mo.

Karin Miller, '98, is an assistant principal for Neosho High School in Neosho, Mo.

Mandy (Vance) Popowich, '98, is a physical education teacher, department head, athletic director and middle school athletics coordinator in Pomona, Calif.

Julie (Gray) Smith, '98, is a commercial loan assistant with People's Bank of Seneca.

Brandon Eggleston, '99, is the superintendent of Seneca R7 School District in Seneca, Mo.

Mark Gann, '99, is the lead director of asset protection solutions for Walgreens in Newark, Del.

Sarah Owen, '99, is the library director at Independence Community College in Independence, Kan.

Clay Routledge, '99, is a social scientist at the University of North Dakota and a leading expert on the study of nostalgia. He recently published his first book, "Nostalgia: A Psychological Resource."

Vicki (Hinds) Sprague, '99, is a project coordinator for R.E. Smith Construction Company in Joplin.

Heather (Johnson) Lesmeister, '99, is Director of University Relations & Marketing, Missouri Southern State University.

2000s

Ben Butler, '00, is executive sales/counsel for Fidelity National Title in Phoenix, Ariz.

Leah (McMechan) Camp, '00, is a global program manager for IBM.

Chara (Oldfield) Jensen, '00, is a physical therapist and team leader for Mercy Therapy Services in Lebanon, Mo.

Cassie (Hombs) Mathes, '00, is the Director of University Relations at the University of Northern Iowa.

Angela (Copeland) Moore, '00, is an executive assistant for Fiberlite Technologies Inc. in Joplin.

Carla (Fairbanks) Bond, '01, is the business development manager for Joplin Parks and Recreation.

Larry Sprague, '01, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments in Pittsburgh, Kan.

Carmen Topete, '01, is the office manager of the Carthage Children's Clinic in Carthage, Mo.

Dusty VanGilder, '01, is a technology specialist for the Joplin School District.

Julie Wengert, '01, earned her doctorate in instructional leadership-higher education administration from Lindenwood University.

Alice Ann Oliver Desch, '02, is an attorney at the Law Office of Joseph A. Desch in Topeka, Kan.

Misty (Nikodim) Russell, '02, is a financial reporting manager for NPC International in Pittsburgh, Kan.

Graham Aid, '03, is an innovation coordinator for Ragn-Sells Group in Stockholm, Sweden.

Lindsay Mason, '03, is a consultant for Slalom in Denver, Colo.

Dustin Perkins, '03, is the assistant principal for Carthage High School in Carthage, Mo.

Terrell Shewmake, '03, '04, is a technical support senior manager for Jack Henry Inc. in Houston, Texas.

Tray Smitherman, '03, is a lieutenant for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo, Texas.

Debra Valdivia, '03, is a housing operations manager for Joplin Housing Authority.

Seth Austin, '04, is the owner of A-Team Excavation LLC in Kaiser, Mo.

Derrick Glasco, '04, is an associate professor of biology at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C.

Robert Moss, '04, is a behavioral health specialist at Ozark Guidance in Northwest Arkansas.

Stacey (Howell) Austin, '05, is the owner of Growing to Learn in Osage Beach, Mo.

Ashley Edwards, '05, is a supply chain analyst for Burrow's Post-Frame Supply in Fort Gibson, Okla.

Tristan Fowler, '05, is an assistant department supervisor for Menards in Columbia, Mo.

Crystal (Harrell) Glasco, '05, is a teacher of Hidden Treasure Christian School in Taylors, S.C.

John Klute, '05, is the CFO for People's Bank of Seneca.

Nellie (Trowbridge) Mitchell, '05, is an art teacher at the Carl Junction High School in Carl Junction, Mo.

Jamie Tallman, '05, is the director of information technology for Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue in Kansas City, Mo.

Laura Bridgeford, '05, '06, '07, is a special education teacher, co-teacher and Special Olympic coach for the Neosho R5 School District.

Heidi (Beaver) Avery, '06, is the principal of the early childhood center for the Santa Fe South Charter Schools in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Cody Bond, '06, is a psychologist for the Ozark Center in Joplin.

Derek Crawford, '06, is a financial systems analyst for Enterprise Holdings Inc. in Clayton, Mo.

Jordan Hamilton, '06, accepted a position as a Project Engineer III – Networks at Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in Pullman, Wash.

Geneia Morgan, '06, is an investigator for the State of Missouri's Department of Social Services in Aurora, Mo.

John Pugh, '06, owns Behavior TLC in Houston, Texas.

Tracy (Lemmons) Roberts, '06, is the director of human resources for Mercy Hospital in Joplin.

Tyler White, '06, is a senior human resources manager for Jack Henry and Associates in Monett, Mo.

David Moore, '07, is a freelance writer for Textbroker.

Christal (Arnall) VanGilder, '07, is an elementary music teacher for the Joplin School District.

Holly (Jeffries) Bull, '08, is the human resources administrator for Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. in Springfield, Mo.

Diana Hesson, '08, is a physical therapist for Freeman Health System in Joplin.

Joey Williams, '08, is a police officer and school resource officer for the Miami Police Department in Miami, Okla.

Jessica (Braun) Young '08, is an administrative assistant for the Crawford County Judicial Center in Pittsburg, Kan.

Jonathan Baumann, '09, is the owner of 24 Elite Gyms located in the Joplin metro area.

Christina Cullers, '09, is a controller for Crowder College in Neosho, Mo.

Elliott Ginn, '09, is the assistant manager of Sears Hometown Store in Berryville, Ark.

Chelsey Hall, '09, is a grant development specialist for the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health in Westminster, Colo.

Tanner Lux, '09, is a cost accounting manager for Paul Mueller Company in Springfield, Mo.

Jessica (Selby) Tallman, '09, is the chiropractor and owner of Mind and Body Family Wellness in Lenexa, Kan.

Patsy Woods, '09, '10, is a science teacher and adult education case manager for the Carthage R9 School District in Carthage, Mo.

2010s

Carrie (Spry) Burgi, '10, is vice president of People's Bank of Seneca.

Ivy Love, '10, is a policy analyst for New America in Washington, DC.

Valerie (Melton) Morrow, '10, is the director of social strategy at Rivet Marketing Agency in Kansas City, Mo.

Melissa (Peterson) Mullen, '10, is a production manager for Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Fla.

Brianna (Tunnell) Howard, '11, is a receptionist at Mid-Land Enterprises in Joplin.

Diane Phipps, '11, is an academic CSS for Preferred Family Healthcare in Joplin.

Landon Adams, '12, earned his doctorate in instructional leadership-higher education administration from Lindenwood University.

Amanda (Raef) Bryson, '12, is a secretary for the Miami Public Schools in Miami, Okla.

Erin Crawford, '12, is an accountant for Hometeam Construction in Murrells Inlet, S.C.

Cindy Olds, '12, is a database analyst for Allgeier, Martin and Associates Inc. in Joplin.

David Roberts, '12, is VP Engineering for DMP Inc. in Springfield, Mo.

Afton (Baldwin) Smith, '12, is the infant/toddler lead teacher for Tulsa Technology Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Kenneth Smith, '12, is the pharmacy manager for Walgreens in Tulsa, Okla.

Joseph Bryson, '13, is a certified teacher and athletic coach for the Miami Public Schools in Miami, Okla.

Ryan Prisock, '13, is an associate attorney with Summers Compton Wells LLC in St. Louis, Mo.

Beth Purcell, '13, is a trade show assistant for ProPlanit, Inc. in Lavon, Texas.

Natasha Russell, '13, is the founder of Natasha Consumer Protection Agency.

Jillian (Pollard) Doherty, '14, is a community health planner/educator for the Joplin City Health Department.

Jacee Hall Ford, '14, is a senior graphic designer with VAZZO Creative in Joplin.

Perline George, '14, is a client services coordinator for the British Virgin Islands Financial Services Commission in Tortola, BVI.

Michael Lowe, '14, is a medical physics assistant at St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Deborah Marrs, '14, is the human resources manager for Midcon Cables Company in Joplin.

Taylor Bailey, '15, works in communications for Nevada Medical Center in Nevada, Mo.

Sarah Hoover, '15, was elected as the auditor of Jasper County, Mo.

Harel Lawrence, '15, is a published author with four books in circulation.

Ryon Phillips, '15, is the compliance and academic services coordinator for Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, Texas.

Renee Bonifant, '16, is a professional caregiver at Home Instead in Joplin.

Timothy Arr, '17, was commissioned to 2nd Lieutenant with the Indian Health Services/United States Public Health Services.

Brett Burr, '17, works in operations for People's Bank of Seneca.

Ashleigh (Long) Coffelt, '17, works for The Shepherd of the Hills Historic Homestead and Adventure Park in Branson, Mo.

Laken Cooke, '17, is a K-5 therapeutic classroom teacher for the Topeka USD 501.

Marcos Gutierrez, '17, is a teacher and coach for USD 443 in Dodge City, Kan.

Caleb House, '17, is a manufacturing engineer for Reyco Granning in Mount Vernon, Mo.

Anne Marie Molina, '17, is a training coordinator at Preferred Family Healthcare in Joplin.

Savannah Musselman, '17, is a teller with People's Bank of Seneca.

Lisha Reynolds, '17, is an adult case manager for Clark Community Mental Health Center in Pierce City, Mo.

Alaina (Alexander) Wright, '17, is a court clerk for the City of Carl Junction, Mo.

Ashley Burns, '18, is a park guide for the National Park Service in Fort Smith, Ark.

Nolan Rhyne, '18, is a senior marketing coordinator for Cerner in Olathe, Kan.

Zach Wuest, '18, is a rehab therapy technician for CoxHealth in Branson, Mo.



ANOTHER GIANT LEAP

Since our Fall 2018 issue, **Dr. Janet Kavandi, '80**, was selected for the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. She will be inducted on April 6 at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral.

MARRIAGES

Nathan Eddy, '13, and Caitlin Carter, '13,
were married Nov. 10, 2018

LION CUBS



Jacob, '08, and Lynnae (Rose) Cook, '07,
welcomed Leeona Ray on Nov. 1, 2018.



Eli Moran, '16, and Kelsey Little, '16,
welcomed Greyson Laine on Nov. 14, 2018.



IN MEMORIUM

STUDENTS

Denine Tahbaz
February 27, 2019

ALUMNI

Michael Ales, '89
October 9, 2018

Dwight Arner, '59
January 15, 2019

Virginia (Degraff) Bennett
November 3, 2018

Dr. Hubert C. Bird, '59
November 23, 2018

Rose Bissey
February 5, 2019

Durward Brewer, '67, '70
October 4, 2018

James "J.R." Chaney, '51
January 11, 2019

Rebecca (Knight) Copeland,
'84
September 24, 2018

Donald Costlow, '77
November 27, 2018

Carol Fry, '70
February 20, 2019

Leslie Gann, '94
September 18, 2018

Nancy Givens, '97
December 7, 2018

Richard Goldthwaite, '00
December 29, 2018

Pamela Goodall, '85
December 7, 2018

Mike Hall, '80
February 21, 2019

Angel Hayes, '94,
September 5, 2018

Gerald Hendren, '69
(Alumni Association Board)
Aug. 24, 2018

Joan (Shepherd) Jaccaud, '86
December 26, 2018

Betty Ann Johnson, '69
(Alumni Board)
October 7, 2018

Janice Jones, '84
December 1, 2018

Lynn Jones, '71
October 18, 2018

William J. Knight
September 15, 2018

Vernon Lawson, '43
(Outstanding Alumnus)
November 11, 2018

Steven E. Lewis, '05, '07
September 28, 2018

Mary Lyon, '75
January 2, 2019

Jimmy Manar, '84
February 14, 2019

Glen Means
October 24, 2018

Jean A. Mitchell, '75,
August 28, 2018

Starri Reinert, '14
November 25, 2018

Cara Renbarger, '89
Aug. 26, 2018

Betty A. Ross, '01
November 18, 2018

Let us know what's going on in your life!
Email us at alumni@mssu.edu

~ continued next page

IN MEMORIAM ~ continued

Amanda Sharp, '06
March 1, 2019

Roger Sherman, '55
December 29, 2018

Jean A. Short, '47
January 7, 2019

Kathleen Shuey, '95
December 21, 2018

Donna Turner, '67, '90
November 8, 2018

Steven "Brett" VanSlyke, '94
September 30, 2018

Kelly Wells, '91, '93
January 22, 2019

Greg Whitsett, '82
Aug. 25, 2018

Edwin Wyrick
October 19, 2018

Michael R. Yocum, '74
October 20, 2018

FRIENDS

Joe T. Borland
August 27, 2018

Dr. R. Carter
February 8, 2019

Robert D. Close
(Alumni Board)
September 4, 2018

Kenneth Cope
September 22, 2018

Carol Griffin
November 26, 2018

Jean R. Griffin
October 10, 2018

Berdy Miller
February 26, 2019

Wayne Neece
February 3, 2019

Joan Peppers
December 2, 2018

Margo Peterson
November 1, 2018

Rose M. Powell
December 15, 2018

William Schwab, Jr.
(Board of Governors)
December 30, 2018

Don Webb
September 19, 2018

Marion G. Wood
December 10, 2018

RETIRED FACULTY/STAFF

Dr. Barbara Box
Nursing
December 25, 2018

Tom Holman
History
January 26, 2019

Charles Leitle
Economics
September 24, 2018w

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HOME CONFERENCE GAME SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER '19

09.05	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - KEARNEY	6:30 PM
09.21	NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY	6:00 PM

OCTOBER '19

HOMECOMING

10.05	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI	2:00 PM
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HALL OF FAME GAME

10.19	WASHBURN UNIVERSITY	4:00 PM
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NOVEMBER '19

11.09	EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY	2:00 PM
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MISSOURI SOUTHERN LIONS ATHLETICS

1ST - MARY BETH STRONG, '19

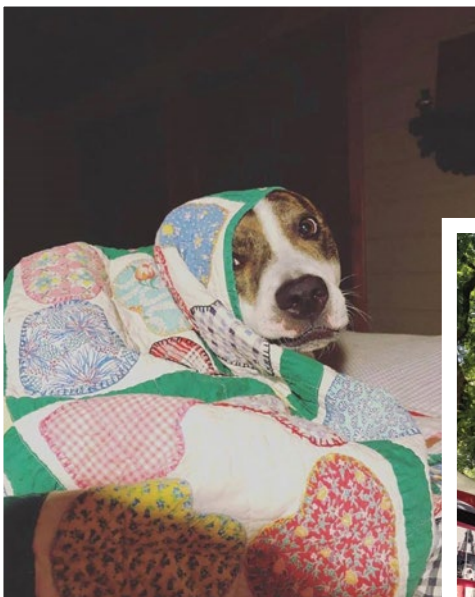
"Hallway at the L.A. Grand"

I stayed in the beautiful L.A. Grand Hotel Downtown while attending a design conference in Los Angeles last year. I was attracted to the symmetry of the hallway where this photo was taken and the late afternoon sun provided plenty of natural light. I chose to take the photo in greyscale to add a sense of mystery and vintage elegance.

Mary Beth Strong, May '19
Design Intern, Leggett & Platt



2ND - MELISSA EMERY



3RD - MEGAN BLANCHARD

Why I GIVE

AAUW, Joplin Branch

For more than three decades, the Dorothea B. Hoover AAUW Scholarship has gone to a Missouri Southern student pursuing a professional degree.

"It's given to a junior or a senior, and they need to have at least a 2.75 grade point average and be in financial need," says Teresa R. Massa, president of the Joplin AAUW chapter's scholarship foundation.

There's one more catch, she says.

"Whoever receives it agrees to come to one of our meetings," says Massa. "We want them to come and meet us."

The most recent scholarship recipient is Kelsey Hickman, a senior health promotion and wellness major. She says she was happy to have the chance to meet the members of the local American Association of University Women chapter and to thank them for their generosity.

"It was extremely helpful," says Hickman. "I tend to have a busy schedule and the scholarship has allowed me to relax a little more and focus on my schoolwork and internship this semester."

"They're a lively bunch of gals. We had coffee and breakfast that morning, and heard from a speaker about rebuilding local houses. It was nice to see all the faces that make up the group."

The AAUW promotes education and equity for all women and girls, and has more than 1,500 branches nationwide. The annual

scholarship is named for Dorothea B. Hoover, a community leader who was instrumental in establishing the Joplin Little Theatre and the city's first history museum. She served as president of the Jasper County branch of the AAUW from 1925-26.

It began as a patrons scholarship in 1986 before recently becoming endowed through the Missouri Southern Foundation. It has been awarded 44 times to 30 students.

The first scholarship in '86 was for \$1,400. Today, it provides more than \$5,300 – a full scholarship for students carrying 12 credit hours per semester.

"We're so proud to be able to help these students," says Susan Haggerty, president of the Joplin branch. "I hear this comment a lot from some of the ladies, that if it wasn't for the scholarship, they wouldn't be with the AAUW. It's their main goal and they're glad to do it."



To discuss donations of scholarships or other support through the Missouri Southern Foundation, please call 417-625-3104.

Susan Haggerty,
President, AAUW Joplin Branch

Kelsey Hickman,
Scholarship Recipient

Teresa R. Massa,
President, AAUW Joplin Chapter's Scholarship Foundation



If you are a parent of an alum and they no longer live with you, please call **417-659-LION** or visit www.mssu.edu/alumnicontact to update their contact information!

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 25

MOSO Monday - School of Arts and Sciences

Tuesday, April 2

Southern Social

Call 417-659-5466 for details

Tuesday - Wednesday, April 16 - 17

Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas Alumni Events

Locations To Be Announced

Monday, April 29

MOSO Monday for Education/Psychology/Kinesiology

Thursday, May 2

Northwest Arkansas Alumni After Hours

Crystal Bridges

Saturday, May 11

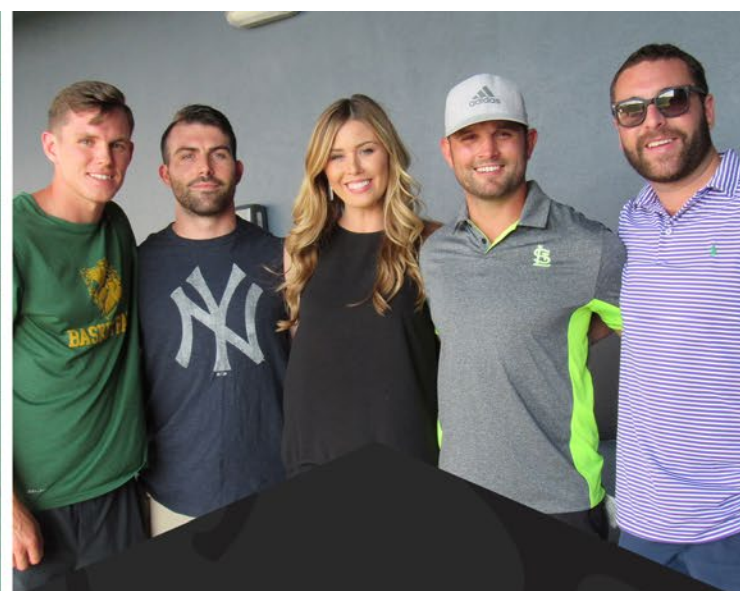
Golden Graduates

Celebrating classes from 1939 - 1969

Watch for information on a Health Sciences Family Day event

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